- (4) Any vehicle registered and licensed as a property-carrying vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-88, while being used for agricultural purposes in intrastate commerce; commerce.
- (5) A motor vehicle not required to be equipped with seat safety belts under federal law; orlaw.
- (6) Any occupant of a motor home, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)d2, other than the driver and front seat passengers.
- (7) Any occupant, while in the custody of a law enforcement officer, being transported in the backseat of a law enforcement vehicle."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 16^{th} day of July, 2007.

Became law upon approval of the Governor at 2:31 p.m. on the 27^{th} day of July, 2007.

Session Law 2007-290

House Bill 1321

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A WEIGHT AND SIZE EXCEPTION TO STATE AND LOCAL FIREFIGHTING AGENCIES TRANSPORTING OVERWEIGHT AND OVERSIZED VEHICLES BEING USED TO COMBAT FOREST FIRES, WILDFIRES, AND OTHER EMERGENCIES OR DISASTERS, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF AN ANNUAL OR SINGLE TRIP PERMIT FOR OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES USED IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A SINGLE TRIP PERMIT FOR OVERSIZE OR OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES OR VEHICLE COMBINATIONS RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY EVENT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 20-118.4. Firefighting equipment exempt from size and weight restrictions while transporting or moving heavy equipment in an emergency; permits.

- (a) Exemption From Weight and Size Restrictions During Emergency Response. Any overweight or oversize vehicle owned and operated by a State or local government or cooperating federal agency is exempt from the weight and size restrictions of this Chapter and implementing rules while it is actively engaged in (i) a response to a fire under the authority of a forest ranger pursuant to G.S. 113-55(a); (ii) a county request for forest protection assistance pursuant to G.S. 113-59; (iii) a request for assistance under a state of emergency declared pursuant to G.S. 14-288.12, 14-288.13, 14-288.14, 14-288.15, and any other applicable statutes and provisions of common law; (iv) a request for assistance under a disaster declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-6 or G.S. 166A-8, when the vehicle meets the following conditions:
 - (1) The vehicle weight does not exceed the manufacturer's GVWR or 90,000 pounds gross weight, whichever is less.
 - (2) The tri-axle grouping weight does not exceed 50,000 pounds, tandem axle weight does not exceed 42,000 pounds, and the single axle weight does not exceed 22,000 pounds.